at the secondary stage and as an elective subject under the academic stream.

(3) The Department of Electronics has also initiated Schemes to promote computer education in the country. Under the Scheme "DOE-ACC" (Department of Electronics-Accrediation Computer Courses), private and public sector institutions, meeting specified norms and having appropriate infrastructural facilities, are considered for accredition for conducting four level computer courses, namely: 'O', 'A', 'B' and 'C' levels.

(4) In general the Boards do not permit schools affiliated to them to run computer classes on commercial basis, as is being done by various training institutes in the country.

चम्बल क्षेत्र के बीहड़ क्षेत्रों के विकास हेतु परियोजना

1347. **श्री राधाकिशन मालवीय:** क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या मध्य प्रदेश सरकार के कृषि विभाग ने जून, 1995 में चम्बल क्षेत्र के बीहड़ क्षेत्रों के विकास हेतु कोई परियोजना उनके मंत्रालय को प्रस्तुत की थी;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस परियोजना में क्या-क्या कार्य किये जाने का प्रस्ताव है और इस परियोजना की लागत कितनी है;

(ग) इस परियोजना के अंतर्गत कुल कितने बीहड़ क्षेत्र का विकास किया जाएगा; और

(घ) इस परियोजना को कब तक स्वीकृति दी जाएगी?

कृषि मंत्री (श्री चतुरानन मिश्र): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) प्रमुख कार्यों में वर्धी उपायों के साथ बाहय् भूमि उपचार द्वारा भूमि विकास, फसल उत्पादन तथा फसल प्रदर्शन, बागवानी रोपण तथा उपयोगी रोपण, वनरोपण, किसान नर्सरी की स्थापना, वन नर्सरी तथा पशुधन विकास शामिल है। परियोजना की अनुमानित लागत 158.58 करोड़ रुपए है।

(ग) इस परियोजना के अंतर्गत कुल एक लाख हैक्टेयर क्षेत्र के विकास करने का लक्ष्य है।

(घ) जर्मनी सरकार ने इस परियोजना प्रस्ताव में बहुत सी कमियां बताई हैं और इसलिए इस परियोजना को इसके वर्तमान स्वरूप में शुरू करने में अपनी असमर्थता व्यक्त की है।

Reservation for Women in Parliament and State Assemblies

1348. SHRI S.S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state whether Government propose to amend the Constitution to incorporate 33 per cent reservation for females in State Assemblies and Parliament; if so, whether such an amendment is being introduced in the current session of Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): The Common Minimum Programme of the United Front Government provides that one third of the elected membership in Parliament and State legislatures will be reserved for women. However, no final decision in the matter has yet been taken.

Punishment to Polluting Units and Individuals

1349. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are committed to punish the individuals/industrial units/official agencies in case they pollute directly or indirectly the environment in any way;

(b) if so, the details of such a move with elaborate arrangements to keep a watch in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to safe guard the interest of labourers in case the pollution spreading units are shifted to remote places; and

(d) if so the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) and (b) Government has taken appropriate action against the polluters as per the existing rules and regulations pertaining to environment. Central and State Pollution Control Boards and pollution control committees in the Union Territories periodically monitor pollution levels and take necessary action against the defaulters. A number, of cases against the industries are pending in courts including the Supreme Court.

(c) and (d) The order regarding shifting of polluting units has been passed by the Supreme Court recently. While ordering shifting of units, the Court has put necessary conditions including safeguarding the interests of labourers.

महिला विकास निगम की स्थापना

1350. **श्री नागमणि:** क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या बिहार में महिला विकास निगम की स्थापना कर दी गई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो कितने तथा कौन-कौन से ज़िलों में ऐसे निगम की स्थापना की गई है; और

(ग) इस निगम द्वारा आज की तिथि तक कौन-कौन से कार्य किये गये हैं?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री (श्री एस॰ आर॰ बोम्मई): (क) और (ख) जी, हां। बिहार राज्य महिला विकास निगम सम्पूर्ण बिहार राज्य में कार्यरत है।

(ग) निगम ने महिलाओं की शक्ति-सम्पन्नता और आर्थिक विकास के लिए निम्नलिखित स्कीमें शुरू की हैं:—

(i) महिलाओं को सीमान्त धन सहायता।
(ii) हथकरघा साड़ियों और बैगों के निर्माण के लिए प्रशिक्षण-सह-उत्पादन केन्द्र।
(iii) बुनाई और कताई केन्द्र।
(iv) महिलाओं तथा महिला दलों को विपणन सुविधाएं प्रदान करने के लिए आयोजित महिला समृद्धि उत्सव।

Hurdles in the completion of Konkan Railway Project

1351. SHRI THENNALA BALAKRISHNA PILLAI:
SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
SHRI RAJ BABBAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the Konkan Railway Project is likely to be completed;

(b) what are the main hurdles leading to delay in completion of the project; and

(c) whether Government have accepted the recommendation of the Committee of M.P.'s on Konkan Railways, if so, action taken so far regarding the implementation of the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The Konkan Railway Project is likely to be completed within the current financial year.

(b) The main reasons for delay in completion of the projects are.

(i) Shortage of funds.
(ii) The slow progress of tunnels in softsoil in Goa area due to unforeseen geological problems.
(iii) Due to rehabilitation of 500 m of high embankment in Cortalim area of Goa sector, which had failed and required extensive remedial measures.

(c) The Government has accepted the recommendations of the Committee of MPs on Konkan Railways. Konkan Railway Corporation has been asked to implement the same as far as possible at this stage.

Vacant SC/ST Posts of Teachers in Central Schools

1352. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of vacant